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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF WAR IN CROATIA AND TO FACILITATE ITS RECOVERY

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Walter BALZAN (Malta)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item, together with item 87, "Special economic and disaster relief assistance: (a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator; (b) Special programmes of economic assistance", and item 88, "International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola".

3. The items were considered at the 25th, 26th and 40th meetings, on 29 October and 16 November 1992. Action on item 144 was taken at the 44th and 48th meetings, on 20 November and 7 December (see A/C.2/47/SR.44 and 48). An account of the Committee's discussion of the items is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/47/SR.25, 26 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 5 to 8 October (see A/C.2/47/SR.3-9).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 27 August 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the

Secretary-General, enclosing an explanatory memorandum concerning a request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, entitled "International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery" (A/47/242);

(b) Letter dated 20 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, enclosing an assessment of war damage in Croatia (A/C.2/47/2).

5. At the 25th meeting, on 29 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Director of the Department of Political Affairs (see A/C.2/47/SR.25).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/47/L.41 AND Rev.1

6. At the 44th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Hungary, Jordan, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Ukraine and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery" (A/C.2/47/L.41), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to that resolution and other relevant resolutions on humanitarian assistance,

"Deeply concerned about the serious aggravation of the humanitarian situation as a direct consequence of the ongoing conflict in former Yugoslavia,

"Conscious of the extensive material destruction of major sectors of the national infrastructure, dwellings, the environment and the cultural heritage in Croatia,

"Aware that owing to the constant increase in the number of refugees in Croatia, emergency assistance and humanitarian relief should be continued and expanded,

"Deeply concerned about the suffering of the victims of war and of 'ethnic cleansing', which have created tides of refugees and displaced persons,

"Noting the efforts of the Government of Croatia to solve the problems of the postwar reconstruction of national infrastructure and, at the same time, to solve the problem of refugees, displaced persons and victims of war,

"Taking note of the letter dated 27 August 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General 1/ and of the letter dated 20 October 1992 from the Prime Minister of Croatia to the Secretary-General, 2/

"Expressing concern about the potential effects of the deepening of the crisis in the region in the event that no rapid process of postwar recovery in Croatia is established,

"Recognizing the importance of the interrelation between economic recovery and peaceful inter-ethnic relations,

"Recognizing that as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are providing emergency humanitarian relief assistance to all areas of former Yugoslavia, including Croatia, this should be accompanied by assistance to facilitate the recovery of Croatia,

"1. Appeals to all Member States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, charity foundations, the business communities, scientific bodies and individuals to provide cooperation in various forms, and special and other assistance, in particular in the most severely affected areas and with a view to facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to these areas;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, having regard for the continuum ranging from emergency relief to the longer-term development needs of the war-torn region, to initiate, in cooperation with the Government of Croatia, an assessment of needs for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Croatia, and to introduce, if appropriate, an international appeal for the funding of a programme for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development;

"3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

7. At its 48th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/47/L.41/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.41. The Committee was informed that the United States of America was not a sponsor of the revised draft resolution.

1/ A/47/242.

2/ A/C.2/47/2, annex.

8. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.41/Rev.1, without a vote (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the annex to that resolution,

Deeply concerned about the serious aggravation of the humanitarian situation as a direct consequence of the ongoing conflict in the former Yugoslavia,

Conscious of the extensive material destruction of major sectors of the national infrastructure, dwellings, the environment and the cultural heritage in Croatia,

Aware that, owing to the constant increase in the number of refugees in Croatia, emergency assistance and humanitarian relief should be continued and expanded,

Deeply concerned about the suffering of the victims of war and of the tides of refugees and displaced persons,

Noting the efforts of the Government of Croatia to solve the problems of the postwar reconstruction of the national infrastructure and, at the same time, to solve the problem of refugees, displaced persons and victims of war within the Republic of Croatia,

Expressing concern about the potential effects of the deepening of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia in the event that, inter alia, no rapid process of postwar recovery in Croatia is established,

Recognizing the importance of the interrelationship between economic recovery and peaceful inter-ethnic relations,

Recognizing that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and other organizations and

programmes of the United Nations system are providing emergency humanitarian relief assistance to all areas of the former Yugoslavia, including the Republic of Croatia, and that such humanitarian aid should be organized in such a way as to facilitate the recovery of Croatia,

1. Appeals to all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to provide cooperation in various forms, and special and other assistance, in particular in the most severely affected areas and with a view to facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to those areas;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, having regard for the continuum ranging from emergency relief to the longer-term development needs of the war-torn region, to initiate, in cooperation with the Government of Croatia, an assessment of needs for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Croatia, and to introduce, if appropriate, an international appeal for the funding of a programme for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.